

From: Debby <debby@zep.net>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2019 8:23 PM
To: envtestimony
Cc: zRepresentative Tim Ackert; Dan.Champagne@ctsenaterepublicans.com
Subject: Proposed HB 6637 - please vote yes

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February 25, 2019

Senator Cohen and Representative Demicco
Environment Committee, Co-Chairs
Legislative Office Building, Room 3200
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: Proposed House Bill No. 6637 – AN ACT REQUIRING AN INVASIVE SPECIES STAMP FOR THE OPERATION OF A MOTORBOAT ON THE INLAND WATERS OF THE STATE

Dear Senator Cohen and Representative Demicco:

My name is Deborah Zeppa and I am a member of the Connecticut lakes community.

In tight budget years funding for the treatment of aquatic invasive species has dried up at the state level. However the battle at the local level has increased placing a difficult burden on individual towns. Bill 6637 which would add a requirement for the purpose a stamp to create monies for use to fight invasive aquatic plants and be funded by those whom are users of CT waterbodies would certainly help address the funding for the necessary expensive treatments needed.

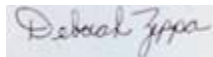
I live on Coventry Lake which has colonies of the highly invasive aquatic plant hydrilla and is spreading. Hydrilla was discovered in Coventry Lake in the fall of 2015. Coventry's first treatment was in August of 2016 which was funded by the State of Connecticut for \$25,000. Connecticut also found funding for a 2nd treatment in 2017 for the same \$25,000. These treatments were with a contact herbicide only on the few identified colonies at that time. The treatment impacted the plants immediately but did not touch the tubers and turions. Thus the based on the increased number of colonies found at the end of 2017 the recommended treatment for 2018 was to treat the whole lake with a systemic herbicide consisting of 3 applications over 90 days at an estimated cost of \$125,000 per season but with treatment period of 7 -10 years. The total cost is estimated at \$1,000,000 to try and stop

hydrilla and save Coventry Lake and stop it's spread to other lakes in Connecticut. The necessary funding is a huge burden to carry by the Town itself. The lake is used by people from around Connecticut as well as other states. Help from the State as well as federal funds is needed. Bill 6637 fills the need to finally restore state funding for treating aquatic invasive plants and using a system that is funded by the users (in-state and out-of-state) of our wonderful Connecticut waterbodies.

Please vote YES to Bill 6637. Save our Connecticut lakes.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Deborah Zeppa".

Deborah Zeppa
93 W. Shore Dr.
Coventry CT 06238

cc: State Senator Daniel Champagne
State Representative Timothy Ackert